

HONORING EMMITT WILLIAMS ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE DOWNEY UNI-
FIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend, Emmitt Williams, an educator at South Middle School of the Downey Unified School District. Emmitt is retiring after nearly 40 years of dedicated service educating generations of our youth. A strong and reliable advocate for public schools, Emmitt has worked tirelessly to ensure that our youth are provided the best possible education.

Born in Emory and educated in Alba, TX, Emmitt earned his bachelor of science and masters of education from North Texas State College. He began his career as a teacher in 1957 at Alamo School, in the Dallas Independent School District. In 1958, Emmitt moved to California where he began teaching in the Downey Unified School District, at Spencer Williams Elementary, Downey Elementary, and later at South Middle School.

Dedicated to advocating for our children, schools, and teachers, Emmitt has held many positions within the Downey Education Association, California Teachers Association [CTA], and the National Education Association [NEA]. In the Downey Education Association he has been a faculty representative, committee chair, member of the board of directors and elected six times to serve as president. Also, he has been president of the CTA Southeastern Regional Resource Center [RRC]. In the CTA Southeastern Section he has been active as a member of the board of directors and vice president. At the State level of the CTA, he has held positions as a member of the board of directors, election committee, liaison committee, and the State council. Within the NEA, Emmitt has been a representative to three international conferences, a member of the board of directors, resolution committee, and three times chosen to be the chairman of the host committee.

Emmitt's years of unwavering commitment earned him the respect and admiration of his students, colleagues, and the community. He has received the Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, and the Golden Oak Award from the Parent Teachers Association. Emmitt has also received the Award of Distinction from the Teacher Education Department at Tyler Junior College, local and State Who Awards by the CTA, Representative Teacher Citation from the Downey Masonic Temple, Teacher of the Year from the Downey Women's Club, the Christa McAuliffe Award, and the Southeastern RRC Gold Award.

While maintaining an active role in education, Emmitt has been a member of the board of directors for the Long Beach Playhouse, volunteer at the Long Beach Civic Light Opera and South Coast Repertoire, honorary life member of the Downey Kiwanis Club, member of the Downey Democratic Club, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club, charter member of the Downey Historical Association, and chair of the Student Exchange Program and the Downey-Guadalupe Sister City Program. He has received the National

Town Affiliation Award from the American Municipal Association in Washington, DC, a Commendation of Outstanding Community Service from the city of Downey, and four student-sponsored youth awards from the Downey Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Speaker, on August 18, 1996, teachers, administrators, former students, and community members gathered to honor Emmitt Williams for his contributions to the field of education and to the community. It is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this exceptional man for his outstanding record of educational service to our young people.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2292 as reported by the Committee on Resources contains a number of provisions relating to three units of the National Park System in the State of West Virginia.

The primary purpose of these provisions are to make boundary modifications to the New River Gorge National River. In this regard, I would note that similar boundary modifications passed the House of Representatives on two occasions: in the 102d Congress as part of H.R. 4382 and in the 103d Congress as title I of H.R. 3252. At the beginning of the 104th Congress, I reintroduced these boundary modifications as part of H.R. 640.

In this regard, a provision of H.R. 2292 would modify the boundary of the New River Gorge National River to expand it by 8,768 acres. Of this total, one tract, known as the Ward estate property, accounts for 7,000 acres with an additional 800 acres of inholdings within that tract. This property is viewed as a critical addition to the national park unit, as it is located directly across from the Grandview area which is one of the most highly visited and scenic areas of the New River. It should be noted that there is no intention to acquire the 800 acres of inholdings. The remaining 968 acres consisting of willing seller property remnants of which 786 acres have already been acquired with the remaining 182 acres pending acquisition.

All in all, the proposed additions to the New River Gorge National River would enhance scenic or natural resources already included in the park unit, including peregrine falcon sites, as well as provide for better visitor access.

The pending legislation would also provide for a minor boundary modification to the Bluestone National Scenic River to include 40 acres of riverfront land that were inadvertently excluded when the river was designated in 1988.

Aside from these boundary matters, the legislation would reaffirm the State of West Virginia's jurisdiction over fish and wildlife resources within the New River Gorge National River, as well as over fish stocking activities there. This is a conforming amendment as a similar provision is contained in the enabling legislation for the neighboring Gauley River National Recreation Area.

Further, the bill would conform the act which designated the New River Gorge National

River with provisions applicable to the Gauley River National Recreation Area in two other respects. First, it would extend to the National River a provision in the National Recreation Area's enabling legislation authorizing the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of West Virginia to maintain and improve existing roads and public rights-of-way within the boundary of the National River to the extent necessary to facilitate and improve reasonable access. Second, the amendments would extend to the National River a provision in the National Recreation Area's enabling legislation authorizing the acquisition of remnant lands in order to minimize the payment of severance costs.

Also in the way of technical and sundry amendments, the bill would amend the enabling legislation for the Gauley River National Recreation Area by providing for the upstream river boundary to revert to its original location in the event construction on a proposed hydroelectric power facility is not commenced within the time required in its license. The enabling legislation established the upstream boundary at the foot of Summersville Dam, but provided for an automatic downstream boundary adjustment in the event a hydroelectric power facility was licensed for the area within a prescribed period of time. The facility was licensed, however, no provision was made in the enabling legislation to readjust the boundary upstream in the event the power facility was never constructed.

The Gauley River National Recreation Area is also affected by this legislation by a provision which provides river access for non-commercial recreation users within the National Recreation Area at a place known as Woods Ferry. Currently, the only public access to the area is located at its upstream boundary, with all other access sites being privately owned primarily by commercial whitewater outfitters. This situation poses an access problem for the general public, including private boaters. The Woods Ferry site, located in the middle section of the Recreation Area, is ideal because and access road is already in place and it is owned by willing sellers to the National Park Service.

A final provision of this bill would amend the designating legislation for the Bluestone National Scenic River to authorize the Secretary to negotiate a memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement with the owner of a tract of land outside of the boundary of the scenic river or to acquire the tract with the owner's consent, in order to provide upstream access to the scenic river.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this bill to the House.

A HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY
FOR \$25,600: THE NEED FOR H.R.
3342

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we need national health insurance reform.

I recently received a letter from a man in the Midwest which reported the following example of the need for reform. Three years ago, his wife's COBRA health insurance continuation